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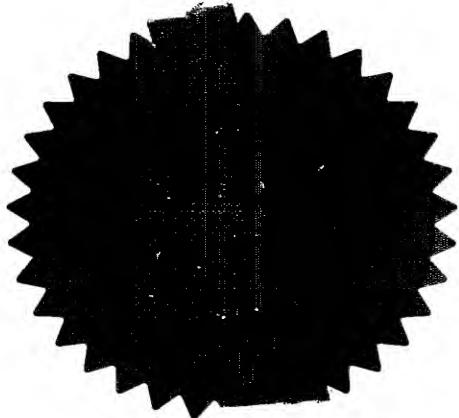
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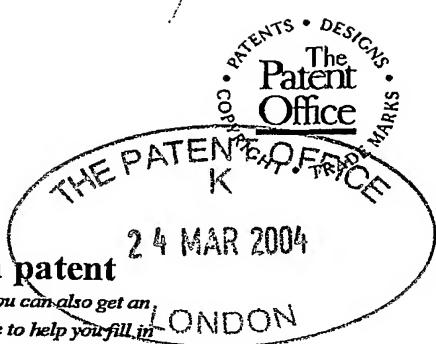


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Kneads Must Limited
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Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

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08780694001

4. Title of the invention

MASSAGING DEVICE

5. Name of your agent (*if you have one*)

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0330185.0

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Signature(s)

Date 24 March 2004

12. Name, daytime telephone number and
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MASSAGING DEVICE

FIELD OF APPLICATION

The present invention relates to a hand-held massaging device for use in the three standard facial massage applications: effleurage (stroking), petrissage (kneading) and pressure point therapy.

BACKGROUND

The present invention relates to a massage device that is hand-held and requires no mechanical or electrical moving parts in order to fulfil its function. In particular, the massage device is useful for so-called "Swedish" or "Aromatherapy" facial massages. Facial massage in Swedish and Aromatherapy routines consist of three basic types of movement: effleurage, petrissage and the use of pressure points.

Effleurage consists of long, soothing, stroking movements that are performed on the face using the thumbs, flat fingers or heel the of the hand(s), pressed gently but firmly onto the skin of the recipient. The sweeping, slow movements are performed to improve circulation and lymph flow. A fairly slow and continuous movement is essential. It is important to keep the flat hand, fingers or thumb(s) gently pressed onto the skin, moulding onto the contours of the area being massaged, in order to attain a smooth, even pressure at all times. Effleurage is always used at the start of a facial massage, to soothe and help the client get used to the therapist's touch. It is also employed at the end of a session to give a relaxing finish to the massage. Effleurage is also used as a connector stroke – to be used prior to and in between more stimulating strokes.

Petrissage movements involve various ways of kneading the skin and muscles. These movements help in strengthening the facial muscle structures by stimulating the deep layers of tissue and also help in increasing the supply of blood to the area. Kneading motions are employed to work muscle against muscle or muscle against bone or both, thus breaking down tension build-up within the muscles. At the same time, they also improve the flow of lymph (which basically consists of the blood's waste products). Petrissage is a firmer movement and usually follows effleurage and usually entails working areas of facial muscle through small circular movements (for the upper face) and larger circular movements (for the lower face). Light kneading eases the top muscle layers while firmer kneading works on the deeper muscles.

Pressure point therapy is based on acupressure and uses the fingertips (usually the thumbs) to press key points on the surface of the face gently for up to ten seconds in order to stimulate the body's natural self-curable abilities. When these points are pressed, they release muscular tension and promote the circulation of blood and lymph

5 in addition to stimulating the body's natural healing abilities. Acupressure uses the same points as acupuncture but employs gentle but firm pressure from the fingertips instead of needles. Advantages of using acupressure include relieving pain, balancing the body's systems and maintaining overall good health. Pressure point therapy in facial massage helps reduce tension, increases the circulation of blood and lymph, and

10 enables the body to relax deeply, thus promoting wellness.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

In the Figures:

15 FIGURE 1 is a depiction of the hand held massage device with finger rings (2) and an upper arched dome (1) that tapers down and out on both sides or edges to a point where it eventually rounds back inwards to form a concave middle section of the tool (3) and then, once again tapers outward and downward to form the oval shaped bottom-most portion of the massage device (4).

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OBJECTS AND STATEMENT OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to supply an all-round, self-contained device that is easy to use by the user and provides the recipient with a beneficial massage using three
25 main facial massage applications. The device of the present invention is light in weight, possesses no moving or attachment parts, and is completely self-contained and easy to use. The device is used directly on skin after the application of suitable lubricants.

Various massage implements currently available almost invariably concentrate on only
30 one type of massage movement. This will not necessarily be as beneficial to the recipient and if a tool is used for a massage application that it was not designed, this could potentially result in the recipient experiencing discomfort or injury, especially concerning the delicate areas of the face. Likewise, the user could also experience discomfort or injury by inappropriately using tools for the task at hand.

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- The present invention is innovative in that this novel device provides an effective and invigorating massage to the recipient while the design provides maximum comfort and protection to the user of the present invention. The present device may be fashioned from any durable material such as plastic, stone, resin, wood or metal. However, if the device were to be used with oils or other such lubricating agents then it would be desirable to have the device made from an easily washable material. It is also possible for the device to be made of a material that can be heated, for example, by using hot water or even a microwave and such material should hold the heat for a sufficient period of time (without scalding or burning either the user or the recipient with the heated device during massage), so that the recipient receives the benefit of the use of heat during a massage. Alternatively, it is possible for the bottom quadrant of the device (4) to be hollow and a battery-operated heating and/or infrared device to be inserted for heat application during massage.
- 15 The upper portion of the device comprises two individual rings (2) to accommodate either the forefinger and middle finger or the middle and ring finger of the user's hand. Because of the dextrous design of the tool, the device can be used in a number of positions involving both the top and bottom portions of the tool, as well as the concave middle portion. The whole of the tool has been designed to be used for various different 20 massage applications on various parts of the face by either an individual recipient themselves or to be applied by one individual (user) providing facial massage to another (the recipient). The uppermost point of the tapered dome of the tool (1) can be used either for focused petrissage on localised areas and/or for all facial pressure points while the oval shaped bottom of the tool (4) can be used for any effleurage movements 25 required over the face. The concave u-bend middle portion of the tool (3) is specifically designed to be used for massaging the jawline.

Insertion of the fingers into the two individual rings can be successfully achieved from one of two opposing insertion points. The first insertion method entails approaching the 30 tool from above with the hand in the prone position (palm facing downwards). The middle of palm of the hand then rests on the uppermost point of the tool (1) and the hand closes over the tool with the fingers (either the forefinger and middle finger or middle and ring finger) then being inserted into the two individual rings (2) in a backward grip-like motion. The concave nature of the middle portion of the present device affords 35 the user a more comfortable and "natural" grip when making a fist, once the fingers are inserted in the ring portions, as the remaining fingers of the hand will fit naturally into

- concave arch and rest gently over the extension of the oval bottom part of the tool (4), the bottom most portion of the present massage device being designed to be an oval with a fairly flat bottom that extends into curves on either side. The second method of inserting the fingers into the two individual rings (2) involves approaching the tool with
- 5 the hand in the supine position (palm facing upwards) and directly inserting the fingers (either the forefinger and middle finger or middle and ring finger) into the rings. Due to the concave shape of the middle portion of the tool (3), the remaining fingers on either side of the hand can fit into the space provided by the middle portion and the fingers can then close upwards and over the upper part of the tool (1), holding the upper part of the
- 10 tool in an upwards grip. Either positioning affords a firm grip over the upper part of the tool making the device virtually part of the fist and allowing the wrist to be supported and move freely in order to manipulate the oval bottom part of the tool (4) in carrying out the application of effleurage or generalised petrissage over all portions of the face.
- 15 The application of localised, focused petrissage and the application of facial pressure points involves the uppermost part of the tool (1) and the user will therefore have to turn the tool upside down so that the bottom oval-shaped part of the tool (4) is facing upwards and the uppermost point of the tool (1) is facing downwards towards the face. In this position, the tool is approached from above with the hand in the prone (palm
- 20 facing downwards) position and the palm rests on the nearly flat edge of the bottom-most part of the oval. Again, the concave middle of the tool (3) provides the space needed for the hand to then close over the side projections of the oval, thus ensuring a solid, comfortable grip and allowing the wrist to rotate freely in the application of slow, localised petrissage or facial pressure points to varying degrees of required pressure
- 25 with no strain on the user at all.

Finally, the concave, u-bend middle portion of the tool is designed specifically for use in massaging and toning the facial jawline. In this application, the tool is returned to its original position, that being the uppermost portion of the tool (1) facing upwards, and the

30 hollow provided by the middle portion of the tool, having been designed to follow the natural curve of the jawline, is applied to the jawline in very slow and deliberately paced sweeping motions. The user can start from one end of the jawline, that being the area of the masseter muscle in front of the ear and follow the jawline to the chin in one continuous, firm sweeping motion. This will help alleviate tension and tone all the facial

35 muscles of the jawline both above and below the mandible.

In general, the tool is made of durable material and stands about approximately 5 inches high. The "edges" or "corners" of the device that make up the upper and bottom of the middle portion are also to be gently rounded to provide both comfort to the user and ensure that no area of the tool will "dig" or "gouge" into the recipient during a facial

5 massage. The upper portion consists of a graduated dome (1) the very top of the upper portion of the tool being a point approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ wide which then tapers down on both sides to two outermost points that then begin to comprise the middle section of the tool. The upper most portion resembles a soft arrowhead and is approximately 1.5 inches high and, at its widest point, that being the bottom most part of the upper portion of the

10 tool, would be approximately 2 inches across. The middle part of the tool comprises of three parts – the extended bottom of the upper portion of the tool, a concave u-bend and the extended upper edge of the bottom portion of the tool. Both the extended bottom of the upper portion of the tool and the extended top of the bottom part of the tool round off at their widest points and then graduate inwards, meeting in the middle to create the soft

15 u-bend effect that is the centre of the tool and which provides the space needed to facilitate the jawline. The bottom portion of the tool is an extended oval shape that is approximately 3 inches wide and 1.5 inches high. The varying widths of the upper, middle and lower parts of the device are deliberate and are an essential feature of the present invention. The oval-shaped bottom portion of the tool must be wide and flat.

20 enough to perform effleurage and general petrissage movements. The whole of the upper part of the device comprises of a singular upper point that is wide enough to facilitate the application of focused petrissage and pressure points whilst remaining round enough to allow the rotating motions involved in both applications to be performed with ease. The uppermost portion of the tool graduates gently downwards from its

25 uppermost point to a rounded edge. Both the extensions of the upper and bottom portions of the tool are rounded so that there are no edges (again so that nothing scrapes or pinches the recipient's skin) and that provide maximum fluidity of movement with regards to the user's wrist and the areas being worked.

30 Due to the device's arched and rounded circular proportions, the present invention can successfully negotiate difficult areas such as the jawline, forehead, temples and cheek areas with ease and if more concentrated petrissage or pressure points are required, the thinnest part of the device, that being the top most point of the upper portion of the device, allows concentrated circular and sawing motions or even static pressure with

35 even the most concentrated pressure. Such versatility, in application or ease of use, is not available through other massage tools currently available or described in literature.

In addition, its gentle, wide arches result in adequate support being provided to the wrist, through the upper and lower portions of the invention, allowing for the application of the varying degrees of pressure needed to achieve either effleurage, petrissage and/or facial pressure points which can be of great benefit to the recipient to relieve muscular tension. One of the benefits of this invention is that regardless of the intensity of the pressure, such pressure will be evenly distributed through the device without exhausting the user and it provides beneficial facial massage and relaxation to the recipient of such a massage. It is also envisaged that the massage device of the present invention can be used with massage oils, lotions or other such suitable lubricants. The design is completely self-contained, with no moving parts or detachable elements.

The arrowhead upper portion of the tool (1) and the oval shaped bottom portion of the tool (4) can be completely solid or, as a design variation and as a further aspect of the device, can be hollow and filled with water or oil of varying colours. Novelty shapes can be inserted to suit aesthetic or seasonal tastes. Likewise, the whole of the tool can be hollow and filled with air or inert gas to make the device lighter. The device can be any colour, according to the manufacturing material used. The hollows of both the upper portion of the device (1) and the oval shaped bottom (4) could alternatively contain a battery operated heating device.

While the present massaging device has been described with various preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood that this description is intended to illustrate and not to limit the scope of the invention. The optional dimensional relationships for all parts of the invention are to include all variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and operation, which are deemed readily apparent and obvious to those skilled in the art. All equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the figures and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed in this invention what is desired to be protected is defined by the following claims.

ABSTRACT
MASSAGING DEVICE

The present invention relates to a hand-held massaging device suitable for use in
5 performing the three main Swedish and Aromatherapy facial massage applications:
effleurage (stroking), petrissage (kneading) and pressure point therapy. The device is
designed such that a user can self-massage or a user can assist or perform a massage
on a person in need of Swedish or Aromatherapy massage treatment.



FIGURE 1

